AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: Q90237

Application No.: 10/550,553

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of

Claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled. Thus, no new matter has been added. Upon entry of this

amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 1-7 will be pending.

Preliminarily, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on

October 8, 2008. Applicants believe it was helpful in advancing the prosecution of this

application. A Statement of Substance of Interview is submitted herewith.

Response to Claim Objection

Claim 8 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim.

Claim 8 has been canceled, rendering the objection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of

the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable

over U.S. Patent No. 6,807,994 to Westermann and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,194,210

to Lommerts. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Westermann and Lommerts fail to disclose or suggest a rubberized fiber material wherein

the coating rubber has a rubber component consisting of natural rubber. Thus, Westermann and

Lommerts fail to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is

respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

5

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 10/550,553

Attorney Docket No.: Q90237

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

washington office 23373 customer number

Date: October 24, 2008

Registration No. 33,725

Bruce E. Kramer